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Washington, D.C. 20231

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g) the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 (a) exists.

The attached form, PTO-1449, provides a listing of patents, publications, or other information as required by 37 CFR § 1.98 (a)(1). A copy of each listed item that is not a U.S. Patent document, is supplied herewith.

37 CFR § 1.97 is satisfied by the following:

X This IDS is being filed pursuant to CFR § 1.97(c) and:

no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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